

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

23. (Previously Presented): A method of performing a joint replacement surgery on a patient, the method comprising:

- positioning the patient on the surgical table in a selected position;
- making an incision in the patient about the joint to be surgically repaired;
- mounting a retractor support apparatus to the operating table;
- positioning the retractor support apparatus about the incision;
- mounting at least one flesh engaging retractor to the retractor support apparatus wherein the flesh engaging retractor engages the flesh of the patient and exposes the joint to be surgically repaired;
- mounting a retractor to the retractor support apparatus wherein a retractor blade of the retractor engages and dislocates a first bone from a second bone of the joint to be surgically repaired; and
- displacing the first bone from the second bone of the joint to be surgically repaired such that the surgical procedure can be performed on either the first bone or the second bone or both the first and second bones.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the joint to be repaired is a hip joint comprising an acetabulum and a femur having a femoral ball.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the femoral ball is dislocated from the acetabulum such that both the femoral ball and acetabulum are in selected positions such that there is access to perform the surgical procedure.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the joint to be surgically repaired is a

shoulder joint comprising the humerus having a humeral ball and glenoid cavity.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the humerus is dislocated from the glenoid cavity such that the humeral ball and the glenoid cavity may be surgically repaired.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 and wherein mounting the retractor support apparatus to the table comprises:

mounting a field post to the operating table wherein the field post extends substantially vertically from the operating table; and

mounting a retractor support to the field post wherein the retractor support includes at least one movable arm that is positionable in a selected position about the incision.

29 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein dislocating the first bone from the second bone comprises:

manipulating an articulated joint of a retractor handle to vertically adjust a retractor blade about the first bone; and

manipulating a mechanical system engaging the retractor handle to apply a force to the first bone such that the first bone is dislocated from the second bone.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein manipulating the mechanical mechanism to dislocate the first bone from the second bone comprises manipulating a gear pin attached to the retractor handle that operably engages a rack on the retractor handle such that the manipulation of the gear pin engages the rack and applies the force to the first bone to dislocate the first bone from the second bone.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, and further comprising mounting a second bone engaging retractor to the retractor support apparatus wherein the second bone engaging retractor engages the first bone and displaces the first bone from the second bone such that the

surgical procedure can be performed.

32-36 (Canceled)